

## Groundwater Quality Funding

Recent legislative changes created two new groundwater quality funding (GWQF) programs to be implemented by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board). These are:

- Proposition 1 Groundwater Sustainability Program (Assembly Bill 1471, Chapter 10)
- Site Cleanup Subaccount Program (Senate Bill 445, Hill, 2014).

The table below summarizes both programs. More information on these and other funding programs is available at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/)

### WHAT ARE THE FUNDING PROGRAM DETAILS?

	<b>Proposition 1 Groundwater Sustainability Program</b>	<b>SB 445 Site Cleanup Subaccount Program</b>
<b>PROGRAM FUNDING</b>	\$800 Million	Annual appropriations with \$19.5 Million Anticipated FY 2015/2016
<b>FUNDING MECHANISMS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grants</li> <li>• Loans</li> </ul> <p>The split in funding for grants and loans has not yet been established.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grants</li> </ul>
<b>ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS</b>	Public Agencies, Tribes, Public Utilities, Non-Profits, Mutual Water Companies	Applicants with eligible projects
<b>ELIGIBLE PROJECTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent or Clean up Contamination of groundwater that serves or has served as a source of drinking water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remediate harm or threat to human health, safety, and the environment from surface or groundwater contamination</li> <li>• Regulatory agency has issued a directive, unless infeasible</li> <li>• Responsible Party lacks financial resources</li> </ul>
<b>PRIORITIES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Threat posed by groundwater contamination to drinking water supply</li> <li>• Potential for groundwater contamination to spread/impair</li> <li>• Potential of project to enhance local water supply reliability</li> <li>• Potential of project to recharge vulnerable, high-use basins</li> <li>• Projects with no viable responsible party(ies)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant threat to human health or the environment</li> <li>• Disadvantaged or small community impact</li> <li>• Cost and environmental benefit of project</li> <li>• Lack of availability of alternate funding source(s)</li> <li>• Other State Water Board considerations</li> </ul>
<b>CONTAMINANTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural contaminants</li> <li>• Human-made contaminants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human-made contaminants</li> </ul>

	<b>Proposition 1 Groundwater Sustainability Program</b>	<b>SB 445 Site Cleanup Subaccount Program</b>
<b>SCHEDULE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Guidelines – April 2016</li> <li>• Public Workshops – May 2016</li> <li>• State Water Board Consideration – July/August 2016</li> <li>• Final Guidelines – August 2016</li> <li>• First Round - Solicitation/Review– Fall/ Winter 2016/17</li> <li>• First Round Grant Agreements– 2017</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Workshops – May/June 2015</li> <li>• Final Grant Application – August 2015</li> <li>• First Round Solicitation/Review – Fall/Winter 2015/16</li> <li>• State Water Board Consideration of Project List – Winter 2016</li> <li>• First Round Grant Agreements – 2016</li> </ul>

## HOW DO I APPLY?

Applicants seeking funding from either GWQF program will be able to apply using a single pre-application for both funding programs. State Water Board staff will evaluate pre-applications and determine which program, if any, is the most appropriate for each project; and, therefore, applicants do not need to designate a funding program preference. Applicants whose pre-application is successful will be invited to submit a final application, either for Proposition 1 Groundwater Sustainability or Site Cleanup Subaccount, or may be advised to apply for another potential source of funds.

Groundwater Quality Funding applications will be accepted online through the Financial Assistance Application Submittal Tool (FAAST):

<https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov/>

## HOW ARE PROJECTS RANKED?

Currently there are no ranking criteria other than existing requirements in law. The State Water Board will adopt guidelines with project selection criteria for the Proposition 1 Groundwater Sustainability Program. The State Water Board may choose to select certain projects for funding over other projects if there are insufficient funds to fund all projects during the fiscal year or over the life of the programs.

## WHAT IF I NEED HELP WITH MY APPLICATION?

Contact information is shown below.

FAAST tutorials will be available online: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/videos/faast.shtml>

If your community has a hardship, technical assistance providers may be available to assist with electronic submittal.

## HOW CAN I STAY INFORMED?

**Website:**

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/)

**Get Email Alerts:**

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email\\_subscriptions/swrcb\\_subscribe.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml)

“Groundwater Quality Funding Assistance”

## HOW CAN I CONTACT THE STATE WATER BOARD?

**Email:** [gwquality.funding@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:gwquality.funding@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Message phone:** 1-800-813-Fund (3863)

*Updated 4/21/15*